

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 COME-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 SCI-06 /058 W

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R 261615Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8635

UNCLAS BOGOTA 6111

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: SGEN CO

SUBJ: INFORMATION ON FIRE IN AVIANCA BUILDING

REF: STATE 146190, BOGOTA 6103, 6082, 6003, 5982

EMBASSY RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AT THIS TIME IS BASED ON INCOMPLETE, CONFUSING AND OFTEN CONTRADICTORY PRESS REPORTS. NO OFFICIAL REPORT OR STATEMENT HAS BEEN ISSUED. JULY 26 PRESS REPORTS THAT COMMITTEE FROM THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION IS ARRIVING IN BOGOTA TODAY TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTIGATION. THEIR REPORT SHOULD FULLY ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS.

1. FIRE ORIGINATED IN THE NORTH-WEST CORNER OF FLOOR 13 (NUMBERED 14 ON BUILDING DIRECTORY) IN THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION INSTITUTE. CAUSE AS YET UNKNOWN.

2. FLOORS ARE REINFORCED CONCRETE: INTERIOR WALLS ARE HOLLOW-CORE CLAY BLOCK OR LOW RISE PARTITIONS OF WOOD, METAL AND GLASS: EXTERIOR WALLS ARE METAL AND GLASS TIED TO CONCRETE RIBS; CEILINGS ARE ACOUSTICAL TILES SUSPENDED ON ALUMINUM RAILS.

3. FIRE AND SMOKE APPARENTLY SPREAD ALONG OUTSIDE  
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OF BUILDING (AIDED BY BRISK BREEZE), THE ELEVATOR

CORE AND THE STAIRWELLS.

4. THERE ARE EIGHT ELEVATORS AND TWO EMERGENCY STAIRWAYS. THE ELEVATORS ARE LOCATED IN A CORE ON THE EAST CENTRAL SIDE OF THE BUILDING. THE STAIRWAYS AT THE NORTH-EAST AND SOUTH-EAST CORNERS OF THE BUILDING. APPROXIMATE DISTANCE FROM ORIGIN OF FIRE ONE HUNDRED TO ONE HUNDRED TWENTY FEET.

5. BUILDING IS REINFORCED CONCRETE. SIX MAJOR COLUMNS AND THE ELEVATOR CORE SUPPORT THE BUILDING.

6. OCCUPANCY BY FLOOR. NUMBERED ACCORDING TO BUILDING DIRECTORY: FOURTEEN, INDUSTRIAL PROMOTION INSTITUTE, PURCHASING DEPARTMENT. STORAGE OF OFFICE SUPPLIES AND XEROX MACHINE. FIFTEEN THROUGH NINETEEN: FUND FOR EXPORT PROMOTION. OFFICES PART OF FLOOR FIFTEEN ALSO OCCUPIED BY UNION SECURITY COMPANY. TWENTY, UNOCCUPIED. TWENTY-ONE, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF RICE GROWERS. OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND COMPUTER WARE. TWENTY-TWO THROUGH TWENTY-FOUR, OFFICES OF THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MINING BANK. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. TWENTY-FIVE, MANUFACTURER HANOVER TRUST COMPANY. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. TWENTY-SIX, TECHNICAL STUDIES, A FIRM OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. TWENTY-SEVEN, SEVERAL INSURANCE COMPANIES, BANKS, CONTRACTORS. OFFICES AND EQUIPMENT. TWENTY-EIGHT, ACCOUNTING FIRM OF DELOITTE, HASKINS AND SELLS. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THIS FLOOR WAS ONLY PARTIALLY OCCUPIED. TWENTY-NINE THROUGH THIRTY-FOUR, COLOMBIAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THIRTY-FIVE AND THIRTY-SIX, OFFICES OF THE AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND MINING BANK. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THIRTY-SEVEN, OFFICES OF TWO COMPANIES AND REGIONAL OFFICES OF AVIANCA AIRLINES. OFFICES AND RELATED EQUIPMENT.

7. THERE IS NO SEPARATION BETWEEN FLOORS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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OUTSIDE WALLS.  
WHITE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INFORMATION ON FIRE IN AVIANCA BUILDING  
**TAGS:** SGEN, CO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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